

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This application ~~is based on an application~~ claims priority to Japanese National Application No. 2000-138642 filed in Japan May 11, 2000, the content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] The encryption unit 102 then writes the generated encrypted key as a file 403 to the storage unit 400.